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M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: 04/25/02

TO: POWTS Plan Reviewers
Wastewater Specialists
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Interested Parties

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SUBJECT: Horizontal Setback Distances for Mounds and At-grades

Questions keep arising regarding how horizontal setback distances should be measured for mound and at-grade systems.

Mound systems

The horizontal setback distance is measured from the distribution cell (edge of aggregate or chamber) along the end slope and up slope side of the mound and from the down slope toe of the mound for all physical features listed in Table 83.43-1. (Example – While the end slope and up slope toe of a mound could be placed up to a lot line, assuming the distribution cell is at least five feet from the lot line, the down slope toe must be located at least five feet from the lot line.) EXCEPTION: The horizontal setback distance to a well is measured from the perimeter of the mound. [See August, 2001 issue of WI Plumbing Code Report.]

At-grade systems

The horizontal setback distance is measured from the perimeter of the distribution cell (edge of aggregate) for all physical features listed in Table 83.43-1. (Example – The distribution cell of an at-grade system could be located five feet from a lot line.)

Of course water movement through the soil must be considered when placing a mound or at-grade system near a property line. Soils that contain restrictive horizons that may affect water movement may extend beyond a property line. Activities on the neighboring property could adversely affect the performance of the mound or at-grade system. In these types of situations, even though the code allows a minimum distance of five feet, it would be prudent to keep the downslope portion of the mound or at-grade system further from the lot line to avoid future conflicts.

This memo supercedes any other memos related to this issue. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Thanks!